



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Administration
Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission Continuum of Care Board
(401) 222-7901**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 12, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Room 314
Barry Hall
Cranston, RI

Attending: Michelle Brophy, Diana Burdett, Jim Ryczek, Michelle Wilcox, Deb DeBare

Also Attending: Jessica Mowry, Michael Tondra, Karen Flora, Diana Dumin, Laura Jaworski, James Jahnz, Maria Cimini, Margaret Kirschner, Adam Schultz, John MacDonald, Mike Burk, Carol Ventura, Pheamo Witcher

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Chairperson Michelle Brophy.

The Chair explained to the attendees that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss rental assistance programs and challenges around access and utilization.

Carol Ventura presented a chart that outlined Rhode Island Housing and OHCD/HRC administered rental programs. Ventura explained that most of the programs are heavily regulated by HUD. The Rhode Island Housing funded RoadHome Program has the most flexibility to be re-structured to fill gaps in the state's rental programs. She explained that the program is scheduled to be reviewed this spring. Ventura suggested that the Board may wish to participate in that review so that the resources invested by Rhode Island are used most effectively. Michelle Brophy asked the attendees if there were programs that should be added to the matrix. Diana Dumin stated that her agency had Mainstream vouchers which are highly targeted. HOPWA was also discussed as a rental resource in addition to the Neighborhood Opportunities Program.

It was discussed that the matrix should include a point of contact for each program so that staff are aware of who to contact to determine program eligibility requirements and availability of funds. Ventura will add to the matrix. There was a suggestion to add units associated with each program to the matrix. Ventura explained that there are no site specific units tied to the programs. The only

site specific units would be those previously financed with Neighborhood Opportunities Program funding. Ventura stated that she could provide a list of owners/addresses for each Permanent Supportive Housing site.

Ventura reported that Rhode Island Housing's Home Locator was being re-vamped and that there may be an opportunity to create a more robust locator for use by homeless providers. She requested volunteers from the attendees to assist Rhode Island Housing in building a useful Home Locator site for providers. Jessica Mowry, Laura Jaworski and Adam Schultz volunteered to work with Rhode Island Housing in the re-vamp and building of the locator.

Michael Tondra reported that the state rental assistance is flexible and that if changes are necessary to be more effective that attendees should provide comments on the program.

There was general discussion on the newly imposed reporting and compliance requirements for various homeless programs. Jim Ryczek stated that it is the new norm for the various funding streams and that RICH may be able to assist in the development of processes that would help standardize and streamline the reporting and compliance requirements. He stated that there were similar concerns when HMIS was implemented.

Motion was made by Jim Ryczek, seconded by Diana Burdett and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ventura
Rhode Island Housing